

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition comprising (A) a poly(phenylene ether) and (B) a styrene resin, the styrene resin (B) being a styrene resin which comprises at least a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds,

the process comprising:

a first step of melt-kneading the poly(phenylene ether) (A) and a first styrene resin to thereby obtain a melt-kneading product, wherein the first styrene resin is a styrene resin at least 80% by weight of which is (B1) a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a hydrogenated polybutadiene and/or a styrene homopolymer; and

a second step of melt-kneading the melt-kneading product with a second styrene resin, wherein the second styrene resin comprises (B2) a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds.

2. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1, wherein the polystyrene (B1) comprises a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a partially hydrogenated polybutadiene in which 5-70% of all double bonds have been hydrogenated.

3. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 2, wherein the second styrene resin further contains a styrene homopolymer.

4. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1, wherein (C) a phosphorus flame retardant is further

added in the first step in an amount of 1-80 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the sum of the poly(phenylene ether) (A) and the first styrene resin.

5. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein (C) a phosphorus flame retardant and/or other additive(s) are further added in the second step.

6. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 4, wherein a phosphazene compound is used as the phosphorus flame retardant (C).

7. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein a polyolefin polymer is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-5 parts by weight.

8. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein a hydrogenated block copolymer derived from a block copolymer having at least one polymer block mainly comprising a vinylaromatic hydrocarbon and at least one polymer block mainly comprising a conjugated diene compound is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight.

9. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein a hydrogenated block copolymer is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight, the hydrogenated block copolymer being one which has been derived from a block copolymer having at least one polymer block mainly comprising a vinylaromatic

hydrocarbon and at least one polymer block mainly comprising a conjugated diene compound and in which

(a) the amount of vinyl bonds derived from the conjugated diene compounds in the unhydrogenated block copolymer is 10-70%,

(b) the overall degree of hydrogenation of the unsaturated double bonds derived from the conjugated diene compounds is 60-85%, and

(c) the content of monomer units derived from the vinylaromatic hydrocarbons in the unhydrogenated block copolymer is 20-60% by weight.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein intermediate material pellets are produced after the melt kneading in the first step, and the intermediate material pellets are subjected to the melt kneading in the second step.

11. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1 or 4, wherein a phosphorus compound antioxidant is added in the second step.

12. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 11, wherein the phosphorus compound antioxidant to be added in the second step is a pentaerythritol diphosphite ~~derivative~~ compound.

13. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 11, wherein the phosphorus compound antioxidant to be added in the second step is bis(2,6-di-t-butyl-4-methylphenyl) pentaerythritol diphosphite.

14. (Previously Presented) A poly(phenylene ether) resin composition obtained by the process of claim 1 or 4.

15. (Previously Presented) The poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 14, which has a glass transition temperature of  $-85^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower, the glass transition temperature being attributable to the polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds.

16. (Previously Presented) An exterior part for a large television receiver or large copier, the exterior part comprising the poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 14.

17. (Previously Presented) An exterior part for a large television or large copier comprising a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition obtained by the process of claim 11.